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A Possible 1893/2 Barber Quarter



Three hypotheses come to mind to explain the “crossbar.”

See pages 6-9

Photo courtesy of Michael S. Fey, Ph.D.

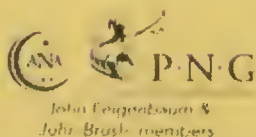


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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write this on Memorial Day Weekend. April and May have been busy months for numismatic pursuits. Included were the Central States (CSNS) Show in the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg. This isn't far from O'Hare Field, parking is free, and hotel & food costs seemed at or a bit below shows held at Rosemont. I also attended the EAC/JRCS joint Convention in Buffalo. This is a small but great show with dedicated collectors and dealers present in a collegial atmosphere and extensive sharing of knowledge. I belong to each of these groups and have collected Bust silver for several years.

Less than a week away is pre-Long Beach followed by Long Beach itself with great auctions and a grand bourse. Many neat local and regional shows are scheduled which offer close-by proximity and a chance to get to know a local or regional dealer you could see a few times a year. There is something real walking up to a dealer's table, being recognized by name and asked how your Barber half set is coming along. This connection may be difficult to establish if you see a dealer once per year at ANA.

Speaking of ANA, the summer convention (called the World's Fair of Money) will be held in Philadelphia during August. If you've been to a summer ANA, I can't add to your experience, but if you haven't, you need to 'drink the water' of this experience. You will find young and mature collectors with little to great knowledge and experience.

I want to touch again on John Frost's initiative of show-casing the Barber Society at regional shows. I saw this first-hand at the CSNS Show and all seemed to be running well. If you notice a Barber table at a show, introduce yourself as a BCCS member. Most of us know only a few members well or on sight. You might provide John with your name and interest in volunteering at a show depending on when and where.

As a last point for this message, here is a question for our members: How do you keep records of the coins you own? In its simplest form, this might be a checklist showing you have the specific coin. However, I expect you would want know its grade (and some additional characteristics), its cost, the source and cost. Do you have a personalized database for this information (what template is used?) or do you use commercial software (provide the name). I think we all would benefit from knowing this information from fellow members. You could forward this to me [philrph1892@cs.com] and use "BCCS coins owned" in the subject of the message. This info will be compiled based of adequate responses without identify-

ing the responder.

Thanks for your interest in Barbers. Have a safe and great summer.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan



Upcoming BCCS Regional Meetings

- **Baltimore Expo**, Baltimore Convention Center, Friday, June 29, 3:00 p.m. BCCS will have a Club Table on the bourse floor.
- **ANA World's Fair of Money**, Philadelphia Convention Center, Saturday, Aug. 11. Annual BCCS Meeting - exact time and room TBA. BCCS will also have a Club Table on the bourse floor.
- **Long Beach**, Long Beach Convention Center, Friday, Sept. 7, 3:00 p.m.
- **NH Coin Expo**, Center of New Hampshire, Manchester, Sept. 14. BCCS will have a Club Table on the bourse floor.
- **Bay State Coin Show**, Marlboro, MA, Nov. 10. BCCS will have a Club Table on the bourse floor.

Please see our website - www.barbercoins.org - for locations and exact meeting times, as these normally get confirmed closer to the show dates.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Sept. 25th

A Possible 1893/2 Barber Quarter

By **Michael S. Fey, Ph.D.** and **Donald Bennett**



Several years ago, I, Michael Fey, found this interesting XF+ Barber quarter in a dealer's box and bought it. I put it aside expecting to study it when I had more time. Recently, I came across it again and decided to further investigate the possibility of it being an 1893/2 overdate.

After further examination and consultation with Donald Bennett, a fellow numismatic researcher, we concluded that it could be a possible "3/2" or even a "3/3" overdate. However, we could not definitely conclude it was an overdate and feel a higher grade specimen and further research may provide a more definitive answer. We are publishing our findings in the hope that someone else may have a similar coin, or come across a higher grade specimen that can shed light on the source of this anomaly.

Previously at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Show in January, 2012, I showed the coin to Bill Fivaz, Skip Fazzari, Mike Ellis, and John Frost, all well respected numismatists and variety experts. They, too, felt an overdate was possible, but inconclusive.

A similar 1893 RPD listed as No. 101 appears in a hand drawing in *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition* by David Lawrence. However, the hand drawing of the loop within the upper "3" of the date is not an exact match of our coin. It is more looping and lower within the upper loop of the "3" than on our coin. A close-up photo would have made the comparison more accurate than

the hand drawing. It is still possible that we are talking about the same repunched date. In the reference, Lawrence claims to have seen only one specimen.

The area of interest on our coin is the small slightly looping crossbar that can be seen within the upper loop of the “3” within the date (photo to right). It does not have the look of a “die gouge.” It could also be the lower portion of the upper loop of an underlying “2” in the date, although it appears smaller, perhaps shrunk from annealing of the dies after the initial punching. There is no other tangible evidence of any other portion of a “2” or “3” that could be seen around the “3” of the date, although there appears to be a slight doubling of the primary image at the top of the “3.”



Close-up of possible 1893/2 Barber Quarter

Three hypotheses come to mind to explain the “crossbar.” It could be:

1. the result of a die clash event
2. the result of a repunched date
3. a random die gouge

1. Die Clash Hypothesis

We feel confident that the “crossbar” is not the result of die clashing. There is no evidence anywhere on the obverse or reverse of any die clashing whatsoever. Beyond that, Donald produced a computer graphic overlay analysis that can best be seen on “YouTube” at <http://youtube/PTBSLTT5IAo>. It shows in video form the overlay change from the obverse date area to the corresponding reverse area. Viewing the coin in this manner demonstrates that nothing on the reverse lines up within the “3” on the obverse that could have contributed to a clash.

The second “S” of STATES and the “O” in “OF” are the only possible sources that could have caused the raised line inside the loop of the “3” resulting from a die clash. If this was the case, the dies would have had to clash, been removed from the dies, polished, and then fixed in a different alignment, an unlikely scenario since we don’t see any evidence of polishing in the aforementioned areas. Without other supporting evidence on the coin to suggest that a die clash event

ever took place, we are confident to conclude that the raised die line within the loop of the “3” in the date was not a result of a die clash.

2. Overdate Hypothesis

We were unable to conclude that it is not a “3/2” or “3/3” overdate. We did conclude that if both the obverse and reverse of an 1893 and 1892 obverse quarter were lined up perfectly by date and denticle, it could not be a “3/2.” Again, Don used his computer graphic overlay approach to demonstrate the point. Go to “YouTube” at <http://youtube/GYS75dbPxvw> to see that the upper loop of the “2” is too high to contribute details observed on the specimen coin.

Caution must be taken not to conclude that it was not the result of a “3/2” or “3/3” overdate for the following reasons:

1. the underdate punch would have to be vertically displaced, or, more likely, lower than the final “3” punch.
2. an initial “2” punch could have been used as a punch test to see if the dies were still soft or hardened.
3. the underlying punch could have been placed on an angle which would only show the upper crossbar rather than lower areas of the “2.”
4. remnants of the “2” other than the upper “crossbar” could have been polished out at any die state along the way, or even initially eliminated when the final “3” was punched.

Consideration was given to the use of a four digit “gang punch” for punching the underdate and overdate. The dates could have been in near perfect register leaving only the “crossbar” within the upper loop of the “3.” This could be accomplished by tilting the gang punch when the initial date was punched so that only the upper portion of a “2” or “3” crossbar remained, or punching of the secondary image obliterated other remnants of the underdate. In any event, we couldn’t conclude it was an overdate, nor could we exclude the possibility of a “3/2” or “3/3” overdate. Perhaps a higher grade specimen would provide more conclusive information.

At this point, it is important to cite a few varieties in the *Cherrypickers’ Guide* that illustrate other, more well-established overdates that we can relate to this coin. The 1844-O repunched date half dollar shows just how wide the separation can be between underdates and overdates. The 1876 large over small date quarter dollar clearly illustrates how a shrunken underdate can exist within the loop of an overdate. And the 1880 “8/7” VAM 7 “crossbar” Morgan silver dollar is a good example of how only the “crossbar” remnant of the underdate, and not the whole “7,” can be seen within the loop of an overdate. There are many other

examples that could be cited to support the possible "3/2" or "3/3" overdate hypothesis.

3. Die Gouge Hypothesis

Finally, we considered the possibility of a simple die gouge within the upper loop of the "3" as the cause for this anomaly. We cannot conclude that it is a die gouge, nor can we exclude its possibility. However, its shape, appearance, and position within the upper loop of the "3" would make it a very strange coincidence. Further, we just do not see die gouges that look like this, especially within digits, and particularly in a year that may or may not have overdates in other denominations. The 1893/2 dime overdate is still controversial with many believing that it is not an overdate at all. So, the answer to the mystery may be that it is simply a die gouge.

We ask fellow Barber collectors to reexamine their 1893 quarters for evidence of this die anomaly. Perhaps a more definitive grade or die state can be found that would shed more light on the origin of a possible overdate.



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Those 1892 Small & Large Date Quarters!

By **Steve Hustad**

Okay, I was wrong. Time to break out the sackcloth and ashes. There's no such thing as large & small date quarter varieties for the year 1892. There, I said it!

Now that that's out of the way, you're probably thinking to yourself, "Steve! How could you, our BCCS variety coordinator, mislead us like that?" And I would have to reply that I guess it started out when I misled myself.

It goes something like this. Once upon a time there was an enthusiastic variety hunter (we'll call him "Stephen" to protect the semi-innocent), who was very much into hunting down new varieties at the local coin shows. He'd bring his 10x loop and list of owned, known, and mythical (meaning spoken of only in hushed tones in the dark, late at night) varieties in hopes of bagging (read: cherry-picking) some at the show. "Stephen" set a goal of at least one new variety for each show attended.

One Saturday morning in the cold upper Midwestern Fall, "Stephen" attended the local "Moon" (don't ask) show. Trusty loop in hand and favorite dealers spied behind their tables set the stage for an excited entrance. The game was afoot!

Over there was Miles from Iowa. He ALWAYS had a great selection of Barbers and Liberty Head nickels in high circulated grades. Miles never disappointed, and I couldn't understand how he could reappear every month with such a large selection of new stock – stock that was always right in my 'sweet spot'!

Right next to Miles was Herb who usually had a table full of BU Franklins (yawn...), but he could always be counted on to reveal a few high grade circulated Barbers to "Stephen."

At the other end of the room was a guy from somewhere in Nebraska who went by the name "Lincoln Yellow." LY always brought along many large ring binders full of circulated coins – including Barbers. I loved to slowly go through those binders with my 10x loop & variety listing in hand. I don't know how many 1908 RPDs I found in those old worn binders. Many! I, er...I mean "Stephen"

found many, yes, a VERY many 1908 RPDs there in LY's binders. A very nice guy was LY, too! Okay, they were ALL nice guys; I liked them all - to a man. Great bunch. All my favorite regulars were present, and they all looked like they had full tables. The stage was set.

"Stephen" was excited. But then again, "Stephen" always got excited at the prospect of the hunt for new varieties. After all, wasn't that the point of this hobby? Fun & excitement, while adding to an ever growing and unique collection?

At the very first table "Stephen" sat down at, the binders were slid across the table, the 10x loop came out, and while studying the first page of Barbers, small talk was made. This small talk was vaguely registering in "Stephen's" brain because remember, 'the game was afoot.' Some friendly mutterings were made about the weather, and how the Vikings would probably get defeated in the play-offs (again) this year, when "Stephen" spied a few 1892 quarters lined up right next to each other in that first binder. Something was different. He'd already looked at all the date numerals for RPDs and the mintmarks for RPMs too, and studied the reeding also (fine, or course), but the dates looked somehow different from one another.

What was THIS then? Could this piece in the middle have a larger looking date than its flankers? Look again, use the loop again, too. YES! This one looks like it has a larger date than the other two! A quick look in the listing revealed no known date differences among 1892 quarters. But wasn't it common for things to change in a series first year of issue as die wear and striking characteristics of a new design revealed their shortcomings, and thus got fixed in midyear? Yes, that happens frequently.

Okay, after that first flush and a wipe of the brow, a closer look was had. The numeral spacing looked pretty much the same, but the middle piece's date looked taller. "Stephen" bought two of those pieces - the ones he felt best illustrated the differences. Now 1892 quarters consumed the rest of that show's search - and for many shows thereafter. Yes, other varieties were still discovered, bought, sold, stored away, written about and plated too.

But that cold day, those new 1892 quarters were brought home and immediately compared to every other 1892 dated quarters in "Stephen's" collection. Soon a group divided between small and large dates was established in the collection, maybe a dozen all together. He could see the differences with the naked eye now. Sure, it's not dramatic, but it's there nonetheless! Why, he wondered aloud, hadn't this been noticed before?

The collecting and cataloging proceeded and other varieties consumed more and more attention until the 1892 L&S dates became a side note in the collection.

Fast forward a bunch of years (yes, too many to count). It's now late in 2011, and the current BCCS variety coordinator, Steven (me) is assisting fellow member John Frost in his orchestrating of the Barber Quarter variety survey planned for the winter 2011/12 BCCS *Journal*. I provided John with my MSExcel listing of quarter varieties as a starting point. The 1892 large & small date quarters were listed and included. John finished up his custom list for the *Journal's* survey (and a superb job he did, by the way!), and it got printed with the winter issue. I wrote a small blurb to go with it and our editor, the steadfast Eileen, re-published some of my Barber quarter variety articles from a series printed a number of years ago to go with, and compliment, John's effort. One of those re-published articles touched upon the "large and small date" 1892s.

So, soon after publication, an email shows up in my inbox from fellow member David Lange (who's also associated with NGC). Dave's asking about the 1892 L&S date quarters. He's saying it's maybe just a hub change that makes it look that way and is skeptical about any numeral differences. I respond that I'm pretty sure there are differences.

Long story short, I ship off to Dave the two 1892s in my collection that I think best illustrate the difference (a pair of 1892-Os as it turns out). But before I sent them off to Dave for his closer inspection and exact measuring (I don't have calipers that small!), I try and discern the measurement/height myself. Of the two different height dates (or so I thought) myself, I expected to measure SOME difference, but alas not. Now I was skeptical too, but shipped them off just the same to Dave, as he has the equipment and better experience needed to put this to bed. Sure enough, an email shows up just a short while later saying he couldn't measure, nor see, any differences. (Sigh.) Okay, insert a dejected, but morosely expected expression here.

So, back to my opening statement about "sackcloth & ashes." "But wait!" you're thinking, "That was 'Stephen,' not you, Steve! That rascal 'Stephen' is the one who misled everyone!" (Ahem!), well, um, okay, confession time – "Stephen" is really me - Steve.

"No!" you're thinking, "Not you, Steve! You wouldn't mislead us!"

Yeah, er, no, I mean - I didn't INTEND to mislead anyone. Stephen, um, I mean STEVE, got carried away with what he/I thought was a new discovery, but

I fooled myself. Credit Dave Lange with setting me straight.

So everyone, erase any mentions of “1892 large date” this, or “small date” that from your collecting entries, and we’ll all move on together to the next “big discovery.”

Many thanks to co-members Dave Lange & John Frost. And come to think of it, many, many thanks also to Miles, Herb and Lincoln Yellow for all those great coin show memories!

Signed,

Steph, er..., I mean Steve Hustad, BCCS Variety Coordinator and sack-cloth wearer.



BCCS “blind” Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send messages using a “Blind Carbon Copy” setting, which means everyone on the list gets the email, but nobody’s email address is displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait for the next issue of the Journal. It is completely voluntary, and is open to members only. If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: BCCS@BarberCoins.org and your name will be added. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.



Dave Lawrence Barber Books now On-line at DLRC Website

All three David Lawrence Barber coin books - *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*, *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, and *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*, as well as *The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage* by David Lawrence & John Feigenbaum - are available at the DLRC on-line library website: <http://www.stellacoinnews.com/>. Simply click on “Reference Books” and scroll down to the book title you want. Access is free, no membership required.

BCCS Regional Update

By **John Frost**, BCCS Regional Program Director

Our Regional Program continues to gain traction, with recent meetings in **Baltimore**, **Long Beach**, and **Manchester (NH)**. About a dozen people attended in both Baltimore and Manchester (this meeting was jointly held with the LSCC – see photo).



Manchester, NH Coin Expo, May 2012: Standing left to right - Matthew Student, Joe Cazazza, un-named attendees. Kneeling left to right - John Frost and Dennis Fortier. Photo submitted by Matthew Student.

In both Baltimore and Manchester, there was an educational program on authenticating the “Big 3” Barber Quarters, in addition to providing an overview of BCCS and club activities. We also discussed the current Barber Quarters Varieties Survey (in-progress through July), as well as “show and tell.” Exhibits were presented at club tables as well, with a variety of Barber coins of all denominations on display. Visitors to the tables included many people who were only vaguely familiar with Barber coinage and they got a lot of useful information.

In addition, we had a club table at **Central States**, where members **Vern Sebby** and **Richard Shimkus** discussed the BCCS, distributed literature, and had coins for exhibit. Traffic was moderate, but they still had several good group dis-

cussions with collectors (photo below) and handed out a couple dozen brochures/applications.



Coming up soon, we will of course have our Annual Meeting at the Philadelphia ANA, but we are also contemplating having a table at the Club Runway during the show, so if you are coming to Philadelphia, please look for us! Other upcoming meetings include Baltimore at the end of June (29th), and events in September in Long Beach and Manchester, NH again. As always, the complete roster of upcoming meetings can be found here in the *Journal* and on our website.

If you want to help the BCCS, please help us at a Regional Show, especially if we have a table on the bourse floor. There is no better way to meet other Barber enthusiasts and it is great fun -- just ask any of us who have spent time behind a table! And you can help promote the club and introduce people to Barber coinage. Please send email to BCCS@barbercoins.org. If you want to host a meeting at a local show, you can also check out resources at: www.barbercoins.org/regional.html.

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings!

I've gotten many requests to extend the deadline for the **Quarter Varieties Survey** due to the length of time it takes collectors to go through their holdings. **The new deadline is July 31st.**

Barber Bits

Letters/Emails to the Editor:

I was surprised and quite pleased to win the first place literary award, and I thank the BCCS members for this honor.

*Regards,
Dave (David W. Lange)*



Editor's note: In the last issue Max asked if anyone knew which year the 1892-O Half Micro O Half Dollar variety was discovered. Here are the responses.

Regarding Max's inquiry as to when the 1892-O Micro O half dollar was first discovered, my notes indicate that it was during the latter half of 1892. This is certainly plausible as many of the small number of specimens known are of higher grade.

*Best regards,
Pete Mosiondz, Jr.*



With regard to the question posted by Max in Barber Bits, the 1892-O Micro O half dollar was known almost from the time of its coining. Augustus G. Heaton included it in his book Coinage of the United States Branch Mints, which was published in 1893. Specifically, he states "There is one rare variety of this piece with an exceedingly small o, hardly larger than a period."

*Regards,
David W. Lange*



Regarding Max in the Barber Bits, page 15 of the Journal, the fellow's name is Michael Flanagan. There is a great article that he wrote in the Journal -

Vol. 14, No. 1, 2003, pg. 15 - titled "Tracking the Elusive 1892-O "Micro O" Half Dollar."

By the way, I am that CA owner of No. 20 of his article.

*Regards,
Condee Corbin*



2011 End of Year Question: In a sentence or two, tell us about your best experience in numismatics this past year.

Kevin Lonergan - getting one coin away from completing my Morgan Dollar collection. (Of course, now comes upgrading!)

Bill Waldrop - obtaining a 96-S Quarter (PCGS) F-15, a 1903-O Quarter (NGC) MS-63, and a 1913-S Quarter (PCGS) AG-3 (CAC).

Thomas Grieves - I've purchased a few quality Barber halves for my set and have enjoyed watching the ride of precious metals.

Justin Stultz - Reaching 40% complete on my newly started Barber Half Dollar set in F-VF.

Michael Fey - I acquired an ultra rare Morgan Dollar variety. I acquired an ultra rare Barber Quarter 1892-S/S FS#501.

David Lange - I completed my sets of Barber Halves and Quarters (sans 1901-S).

Ernie Rivas - I became interested in collecting the California Diamond Jubilee Commemorative (1925-S). Several will likely be given away as gifts.

Len Ariagno - I only collect Barber Halves. I finally located an 1897-O in XF-45. My hunt for a 1904-S in XF-AU remains a continuing challenge.

Thomas Vincent - One shy (1892-S) of completing a Barber Half set! (Now to replace the common date VGs with Fines.)

(continued on page 19)

1907-O Barber Quarter “Shooting Star”

By Jerry Slater

I was looking through my old coins, probably in much the same manner as do many of you. While checking for rotation errors on a stack of quarters I had stashed away, I noticed extra metal in the field between a star and the rim of a 1907-O Barber quarter. Visibly old and worn to the naked eye, I used the loop to examine the reverse of the coin.



Taking a second look, the shape caught my eye. The star looked to be pushed outward to the “T” in STATES. Notice that the lower left side and top tip of the star protrude through the field of the coin stopping at the bottom of the “T.” See photo. Examining it closer, the star looks too rotated at some degree and angle, but in a larger star shape where it stops, thus I have given it the nickname “Shooting Star.” You will notice that the fold in the ribbon below it has evidences of protruded metal in the field.



Searching the Internet, I found a couple of 1907-O Barber quarters having the same or close to the shape only at the ribbon fold. The search was fruitless finding the "Shooting Star" on any other coins that I looked at. However, I did find two 1907-O Barber quarters with fill between the left star tip and the top star tip on the same star, but not protruding toward the rim. No coins were found with both.

While in my possession, the coin has not been altered and, as far as I can tell, it had not been. I am recruiting your help in solving this mystery. I think the mystery is the "Shooting Star" keeping its star shape while enlarging at the end of its journey at the "T."

Are there any members with another 1907-O Barber Quarter like this one? Is this a die break error? Is there a name for this error? You can send comments and answers to ShootingStarBarberQuarter@suddenlink.net to help me solve the mystery.



2011 End of Year Question (continued from page 17)

Timothy O'Keefe - attending and working at this year's Tulsa Coin Show. I was approached by Gary Parsons, who is the president of the Oklahoma Numismatic Association, to write an article on coin show security. While it is not exactly a Barber topic, there is some good general information provided.

William Rodriguez - I don't think I bought any Barbers this year, but I truly enjoyed reading the articles in the *BCCS Journal*. It is terrific!

Name withheld - On Apr. 28 (the market high) I sold a considerable amount of silver. This earned/freed up quite a sum to put into my collection.

Joe Cabral - I did complete a Barber dimes set. I submitted a 1909-O 25c to PCGS and it came back XF-45 - one of only two.

Lorens Lindberg - The thrill of the hunt experienced at every coin show, realizing that scarce date Barber coins in grade F-12 and above are very hard to find in problem-free condition.

More responses will be in the September issue.

The Good Old Days

By **Peter Mosiondz, Jr.**

Some of my happier moments in this wonderful hobby of ours occurred during the summer months of 1960.

I had just graduated from grammar school (they didn't call it junior high school back then) and was eagerly looking forward to September when I would enter the grown-up world of high school. My good graduation grades earned me several new freedoms, among them being allowed to go "downtown" – to center-city Philadelphia – and to baseball games without parental escort.

Full of youthful vigor, I planned to make the most of that summer. Visits to Connie Mack Stadium to watch my beloved Phillies play would be interspersed with frequent visits to my favorite coin shops downtown. In those days there were a couple of dozen to choose from, some next door to each other.

My two best coin buddies at the time were Bob and Larry. Oddly enough, they did not know each other although we all lived in the same general area. As Bob was more of a loner and content filling his 25¢ Whitman folders with coins from circulation, my trips to the coin stores were made with Larry.

Our visits usually began at 9th and Arch Streets. The Adelphia Stamp and Coin Shop was next door to our favorite hunting grounds, The Penn Coin Shop at 908 Arch Street, now, sad to say, a tattoo parlor. It was a small family run business that also had a smelting operation in the rear. I recall that the two front display windows had an assortment of World War II memorabilia in the left window while coins and related supplies occupied the right side. It was the wide assortment of coins that drew our attention.

I do not remember their surname, although I remember that Walt, one of the sons, always seemed to be busy with an adult collector every time we visited. He would invariably holler out, "Mom, a couple of customers for you," as Larry and I entered the shop. There was no need of door buzzers or any worry about the front display windows a half century ago. My, how things were so different!

"Mom," as she wanted us to call her, was then in her mid-50s with a cherub, almost angelic, face and always wore a smile. She had the patience of a saint and relished taking care of the younger collectors. She taught me so much and was very instrumental in leading me on the path of numismatics. Although I had been

“collecting” then for about six years, she gave me the necessary push.

Mom knew, of course, that I had been checking her “junk” boxes of Barber dimes, quarters and halves for several weeks, with each week’s purchases much less than the preceding week. I was quickly filling up my folders at double face value. The shop had separate boxes of circulated coins in most every type and denomination. All were priced at double face except the Indian Cents at a nickel and the silver dollars which were \$1.50 each.

I hadn’t planned to look at Barbers that week. I had wanted to go through the Indian Cents. But Mom insisted. She said, “You know we are always putting something new in these boxes every week.” No one could argue with Mom, so I gladly accepted the box. She seemed to take just a little extra time getting the box to the counter. As she did so, she had a twinkle in her bespectacled eyes. It didn’t take too much time until I found it: an about good 1895-O Barber Dime that would cost me all of 20 cents. I gasped out loud and Mom asked, “Did you find something good?” I told her, with hands trembling, that I had found an 1895-O Dime. I also told her that it must have been a mistake and that I couldn’t rightfully pay just 20 cents for such an expensive coin (back then it was worth in the vicinity of \$40 as I recall). “No matter,” she said, “Mistake or not, it’s yours for 20 cents if you want it.”

As we paid for all of our selections while preparing to leave, Walt told us that we had become Mom’s favorite customers. Are there any Penn Coin Shops out there today? More importantly, are there any Moms?



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2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, society members and non-members alike.
4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.
5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.
6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.
7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.
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